



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Howard Denis

For Immediate Release

October 30, 2001

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STATEMENT OF COUNCILMEMBER DENIS
REGARDING THE PURPLE LINE

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I share the disappointment of County Executive Duncan with the Governor's Announcement yesterday of his selection of the Inner Purple Line for further study. The announcement essentially makes the Council's vote today on a recommendation to the Governor bizarre.

I am also concerned about governor's selection of the Inner Purple Line as the top transportation priority for the Washington area.

In my view the top transportation priorities for Montgomery County are the Inter-County Connector and the Corridor Cities Transitway. The Inter-County Connector along the master plan alignment is vital to improving east-west transportation between Montgomery and Prince George's County. The Corridor Cities Transitway is essential for addressing serious north-south traffic congestion problems that exist in Montgomery County, and should be the top transit priority for Montgomery County.

The inner purple line is a fantasy - it is not truly a "purple line". This transitway will not be part of the Metrorail system -- it will use different rail cars from Metro and would require completely separate operations and maintenance facilities. I will only support further review of a transit connection along the Inner Purple Line alignment between Bethesda and Silver Spring so long as the transit connection is a fully integrated part of the Metrorail System and is constructed below-grade.

I personally support the Outer Purple Line alignment. The outer alignment will provide essential access to residents of Montgomery and Prince George's County to emerging employment opportunities in places like Rock Spring and White Oak. These places are where job growth is occurring but are under-served by mass transit.

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